Respectfully requested,

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APPENDIX A

1. (Amended) A composite absorbent member [having] <u>comprising</u> a first layer positioned between second and third layers, said first layer and said second and third layers each containing pulp fibers, wherein the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said first layer is greater than the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said second layer and the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said third layer, and wherein the average diameter of the pores within said first layer is smaller than the average diameter of the pores within said second layer and said third layer.

14. (Amended) A composite absorbent member for use in a sanitary napkin, said composite absorbent member [having] <u>comprising</u> an inner layer positioned between first and second outer layers, said inner layer and said first and second outer layers each containing thermoplastic meltblown fibers and pulp fibers, wherein the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said inner layer is at least about 10% greater than the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said first outer layer and said second outer layer, and wherein the average diameter of the pores within said inner layer is smaller than the average diameter of the pores within said first outer layer and said second outer layer.

25. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable cover and a liquid-impermeable baffle; and

an absorbent core positioned between said liquid-permeable cover and said liquid-impermeable baffle, said absorbent core containing a composite absorbent member,

4

wherein said composite absorbent member [has] <u>comprises</u> adjacent first and second layers that each contain thermoplastic meltblown fibers and pulp fibers, wherein the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said first layer is greater than the weight percentage of pulp fibers within said second layer, and wherein the average diameter of the pores within said first layer is smaller than the average diameter of the pores within said second layer.